

W5YI

National Volunteer Examiner Coordinator
REPORT

Up to the minute news from the world of amateur radio, personal computing and emerging electronics. While no guarantee is made, information is from sources we believe to be reliable. May be reproduced providing credit is given to The W5YI Report.

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December 1, 1991

ARRL CAMPAIGNS FOR 216 MHZ ACCESS AND 220 MHZ WEAK-SIGNAL SUBBAND

TV Lobby "Crying Wolf," ARRL Says; Southern CA Repeaters May Have to Sign Off

The reallocation of 220-222 MHz from amateur use to industrial mobile radio in Docket 87-14 has not 'closed the book' on developments in this portion of the spectrum. In reply comments in its petition RM-7747 at the FCC, the American Radio Relay League emphasized that Amateur Service fixed-station access to 216-220 MHz can work. It described the television industry's opposition to the idea as "inflammatory" and "unsupported," and ARRL welcomed further constructive discussions with maritime communications interests that operate in the band.

The key use of the 216-220 MHz portion would be for packet network links. ARRL wants the FCC to require coordination of all ham operations in 216-220 MHz, with the League as "sole database administrator and coordinator [which] will know the exact location, telephone number and system configuration of every station operating at 216-220 MHz." This information is supposed to help the ARRL quickly identify and resolve interference and to assuage the fears of other services, notably the TV broadcast industry.

Separately, the ARRL petitioned for the FCC disallow repeater and auxiliary operations at 222.0-222.150 MHz, to protect the band for "passive

lunar reflection stations" (moonbounce) and propagation studies, among others. Some repeaters will have to move, ARRL told the FCC, and others, especially in Southern California, "may not be able to move...and may have to go off the air."

Emergency Authorities Support Allocation

The National Communications System (NCS), which manages Government agency use of telecommunications in case of national emergency, heartily supported the ARRL request for secondary, non-interference access. NCS staff member and engineer Dr. Dennis Bodson, W4PWF is well-known as an advocate for the amateur's role in emergency communications.

NCS told the FCC that the League's request "provides a reasoned and technically viable alternative to the loss of the amateur capability to assist in National Security/Emergency Preparedness functions that resulted from the actions taken in Docket 87-14." NCS had previously said that the loss of 220-222 MHz would "substantially diminish" amateur emergency capability.

Favorable comments also arrived from the New Hampshire Office of Emergency Management.

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The comments were written by the Communications Officer, Communications Specialist and Communications Reservist, all three of whom are hams. They explained the difficulties faced by packet operations under the post-87-14 regime.

"New Hampshire and its neighboring states, Vermont and Maine, are primarily rural with low population densities. There are large areas that are uninhabited that separate populated areas throughout the three states. Installation of intermediate digital communications stations is difficult, if not impossible, due to legal and/or environmental restrictions," the three told the FCC.

"In some cases, sites that are otherwise suitable locations for such digital packet radio systems are, at present, inaccessible due to the remoteness of those sites. One of the few answers to the problem is the use of the long-haul propagation characteristics of the 216-220 MHz band. Those characteristics do not exist on the higher-frequency bands (430-450 MHz and up) available to the Amateur Service."

The commenters told the FCC that it has already been necessary to move a "vital digital link" between New Hampshire and Vermont up into the 222-225 MHz band, causing interference to an existing remote repeater link colocated with one of the packet switches serviced by the digital link. "The possibility of using a high-speed link on the present frequency is nonexistent due to concerns for causing intolerable interference to the repeater link," they said.

Maritime user not opposed to ham operation

Watercom, a company representing automated maritime telecommunications (AMTS) systems, is in discussions with ARRL about how to accommodate amateur secondary use at 216-220 MHz. "With appropriate separations between AMTS operations and Amateur Service stations, the amateurs can utilize 216-220 MHz band frequencies without causing harmful interference to AMTS operations," the company said.

Watercom wants coordination with ARRL to be mandatory. ARRL had originally suggested that

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hams could provide engineering data proving that no interference to other services would take place, and this 'self-certification' could replace co-ordination in some cases. The League has changed its position and agrees with Watercom that coordination with ARRL must be required before amateur operation begins in the band.

ARRL blasts broadcaster comments

The League criticized Maximum Service Television (MSTV), a trade association of TV stations long known for opposing new kinds of RF communication technology. Still pending at the FCC is MSTV's petition to hold up approval of new uses for radio until all proposals have passed a TV Interference Impact Board. MSTV filed the only opposition to the ARRL proposal, warning the FCC not to be "stampeded" into a "precipitous and highly risky" allocation to hams.

"Typical of the reflexive reaction of MSTV to any proposal involving the 216-220 MHz band, MSTV here expresses the same concern about potential interference to television channel 13 as it has with respect to virtually all other proposals for use of the band," ARRL said.

"MSTV risks loss of credibility by the repeated crying of 'wolf' to any such proposals. The Commission has already determined that as a matter of policy, it will not preclude adjacent band allocations based on mere speculation as to the potential for interference to television reception," it added.

(ARRL described as "anomalous" MSTV's 'accending' to the TV Answer proposal to establish an interactive video data service at 218 MHz. A remote-controlled TV picture menu for home shopping, game shows and similar uses, TV Answer would actually place transmitters inside the home, on top of the TV set itself.

TV Answer did not file comments on the ARRL proposal. "It can thus be concluded that TV Answer has no opposition to the League's proposal, or its plan for interference avoidance to any interactive television system in the 216-220 MHz band," the ARRL said. Nor were comments filed

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by ProNet, which seeks 216 MHz spectrum for 'beacon bucks' -- transmitters hidden inside cash used to locate bank robbers.)

ARRL had performed tests of TV interference, based on procedures used and published by the FCC itself. The League said that MSTV tried to "discredit" the tests without offering any of its own analysis in rebuttal.

"All engineering calculations aside, the proposed allocation is on a secondary, non-interference basis, and the unfounded fears of interference of MSTV are superfluous by definition," it said. "If any interference is caused in fact to channel 13 television viewers, the amateur station would have to remedy it or discontinue operation, as broadcasting is a primary user in the adjacent band."

This non-interference arrangement would be retained regardless of the outcome of current FCC High-Definition Television (HDTV) or Advanced Television (ATV) proposals. MSTV previously told the FCC that future ATV broadcasting will be particularly sensitive to interference. This notion entirely contradicts information told to *W5YI Report* by a previous FCC Mass Media Bureau Chief, who said that the FCC believes ATV must be required to be more robust against interference than current television.

We found the ARRL reply comments to be well argued and supported. It remains to be seen whether the Amateur Service -- even when its operations in this band will be carefully restricted and coordinated -- can overcome the opposition of broadcast interests skilled at lobbying the FCC.

Weak-Signal Petition

On November 12, the ARRL submitted a *Petition for Rule Making* to amend Section §97.201(b) and §97.205(b) to create a subband at 222.0-222.150 for weak-signal communications. Such communications "require a certain amount of co-channel and adjacent-channel protection from other types of amateur operation, including repeater and simplex FM operation, due to the lower received signal strengths relative to other types of amateur operation," the petition said.

ARRL noted that similar subbands, where repeater operation is not permitted, exist at other bands, including 50.0-51, 144-144.5, 145.5-146, 431-433 and 435-438 MHz. In Docket 87-14, the League commented on the interesting results of Sporadic-E propagation conducted by amateurs at 220 MHz in 1987. "Those comments included an initial report of the first documented evidence of two-way sporadic-E communications at 220 MHz, between Dallas, Texas and Jacksonville, Florida," the ARRL told the FCC.

"This type of scientific investigation is uniquely suited to the Amateur Radio Service, and necessitates a protected segment in order to be successful." Weak-signal operation that took place in 220-222 MHz has been "completely displaced."

Impact on repeaters

The ARRL acknowledged that repeater operations suffered from the loss of 220-222 MHz as well, including auxiliary links and some repeaters themselves below 222. But "in order for a weak-signal segment of the 222-225 MHz band to be created as herein proposed," ARRL said, "it may be necessary to relocate certain repeater operations, elsewhere in the band. A few may not be able to move, especially in Southern California, and may have to go off the air."

"The alternative, however, is for large numbers of weak signal stations now displaced from 220-222 MHz to cease operation entirely. The League believes it equitable, if not entirely satisfactory, for repeater operators to bear a small share of the loss of the 220-222 MHz segment in order to permit other types of amateur operation to continue in a relatively small 150 kHz segment of the 1.25 meter band."

ARRL said that voluntary band planning would not be enough to ensure protection of weak-signal operation at 222 MHz, "in view of the previously entrenched nature of repeater and auxiliary operation there, and the extent of present crowding in the reduced band." A reasonable subband is of "critical importance," it said, to gain "scientific benefits" and "benefits in terms of technical self-training."

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- We recently had a request from a reader asking if there were any other international *call sign prefixes assigned to the United States* other than AAA-ALZ, KAA-KZZ, NAA-NZZ and WAA-WZZ. We didn't think there was, but then we were surprised to learn that prefixes beginning with the number "2" had been allocated to the British Isles and were being used to identify their new British Novice amateur class.

We dashed off a FAX to the International Telecommunication Union in Geneva. ITU Chief, Radio Regulations Service (A. Zoudov) confirmed that there were no other prefixes allocated to the United States of America. (Appendix 42 to the Radio Regulations.)

- Two new books from Universal Electronics you'll be interested in:
THE EASY WIRE ANTENNA HANDBOOK by *Dave Ingram, K4TWJ* covers the easiest and least expensive way to provide your amateur radio setup with globe-spanning capabilities. All you need is a pair of wire cutters and various transmission lines and you are in business! Covers all sorts of dipoles, inverted Vees, Bazooka-fed, end-fed, Windoms, Delta-loops, Zepps, multi-bands ...you name it! Also chapters on transmission lines, antenna tuners, "secret" invisible antennas and commercial wire kits. [\$9.95 from Universal Electronics, Inc., 4555 Groves Rd., Suite 13, Columbus, Ohio 43232. Orders: 1-800-241-8171.]

HIDDEN SIGNALS ON THE SATELLITES by *Tom Harrington, W8OMV*, covers the entire field of non-video and data services carried on the satellites ...including stereo subcarriers, telephone systems, world news/press services, teletext, financial news services ...and more. Tells you where all the satellites are and what is on each transponder and audio subcarrier. Easy-to-read and understand, 250 pages. [\$19.95]

- I received the following piece from *Tom Blackwell, N5GAR* on the eve of the Kennedy assassination here in Dallas.

POLICE DEPT. CONTINUES
SEARCH FOR EX-W5IPW

The Houston Police Dept. is continuing its investigation and search for *Charles F. Rogers*, **W5IPW** (expired call), in the matter of the death of his parents, Edwina and Fred Rogers, on June 23, 1965. Their bodies were found cut up and stored in a refrigerator at their home.

Officer Lois Gibson, Forensic Artist for the HPD, appeared at a conference in Dallas on the Assassination of President John F. Kennedy held November 16, 1991. She has testified in cases in 30 states, and has produced some 2000 composite sketches in the course of her work.

She identified Charles F. Rogers as one of three "tramps" escorted by Dallas Police from a railroad car behind Dealy Plaza immediately after the assassination of President Kennedy on November 22, 1963. They were released without any record of questioning by authorities. Numerous photographs of the "tramps" have been published in books on the assassination, including *Crossfire* by Jim Marrs.

According to investigators John R. Craig and Phillip A. Rogers, Charles F. Rogers was born in 1921 in Houston. At the time of his parents' deaths, radio equipment was found at their residence that was specially designed for transmitting on government frequencies.

Officer Gibson has identified photos of the other two "tramps" as Chauncy M. Holt, a forgery expert, and Charles Harrelson, now serving a life sentence at the Federal Penitentiary in Marion, Illinois, for the assassination of U.S. District Judge John Wood of San Antonio.

For further information, or to report information, contact Officer

Gibson at the HPD, 61 Reasoner St., Room 608A, Houston, TX. Tel. 713/247-8287.

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Gibson at the HPD, 61 Reasoner
St., Room 608A, Houston, TX. Tel.
713/247-8287.

[I tried to contact Officer Gibson, but she was unavailable. I did find Charles F. Rogers, W5IPW, listed in a very old callbook, however, at 1815 Driscoll St., Houston 6, TX. There has always been a widespread belief that more than one killer was involved in the Kennedy assassination.]

More gruesome trivia. Did you know that the doctor who mixed and later delivered the poison Koolaid that killed everyone (all 900) including himself and Jim Jones at Jonestown, Guyana several years ago was an FCC licensed ham operator. His name? *Laurence E. Schacht, WB6MID.*

- **K1MAN**, *Glen Baxter* is apparently going in the publishing business. We received an announcement that he is looking for writers who will be paid on a royalty based on sales. Inquiries go to: *The International Amateur Radio School, 1 Long Point Road, Belgrade Lakes, Maine 04918 Tel. 207/495-2215.*

Baxter also plans to solve the dilemma of which technical book to buy with "*K1MAN's Bookshelf*" a marketing vehicle which will carry both IARS publications and others. "*K1MAN's Bookshelf* will carry ads in all major ham magazines and have a booth at major hamfests."

The *K1MAN Radio Handbook* which also serves as a licensing manual, Novice through Extra, is now in preparation ...complete with code learning tapes "...until all code is eventually eliminated from our Amateur Radio Service." Students who pass the open-book final exam administered by a third party qualify for an IARS "*Diploma in Radio Operations*" signed by a Registered Professional Engineer. (Application Fee: \$100.00) Handbook will also be available on disk.

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• The Western Washington Amateur Relay Association (WWARA) is still trying to come up with a six meter FM band plan via the democratic process. SERA and MACC, two huge coordination organizations, have endorsed the 1.7 MHz offset plan originally presented by the Columbia Region Six Meter Association. CRSMA represents 6m users in Washington, Oregon and British Columbia.

American Radio Relay League directors, however, (with the exception of Northwestern Division's *Mary Lewis, W7QGP*) chose to approve a 500 kHz split without debate, the recommendation of their VHF Repeater Advisory Committee (VRAC) and *Karl Pagel, N6BVU*, of the Southern California Repeater and Remote Base Association.

South Eastern Repeater Association, Inc. president *Carter Cogle, K4ARO*, says "...the new ARRL six meter band plan is totally unacceptable and SERA will not accept it."

Whit Brown, *WB0CJX*, of the Colorado Council of Amateur Radio Clubs, Inc., (and MACC Coordination Committee Chairman) objected to the way the League Directors "...voted to adopt the VRAC-/SCRRBA 6M plan upon being told that there were no objections to the plan." He contends there were objections and he so notified *Karl Pagel, N6BVU* of SCRRBA.

The Mid-America Coordination Council which represents coordination efforts and band-planning interests in thirteen states has unanimously voted to support and adopt the 1.7 MHz CRSMA offset "...as technically and transitionally superior to the mosaic 500 kHz plan conceived by SCRRBA."

There were a few who have agreed with the 500 kHz offset, but these appear to be users who already are using the 500 kHz offset.

WWARA has now distributed a

voting card to interested parties "...to help us better understand your vote." The ballot must be returned by December 15th ...only one band plan may be voted for. Results of the vote choosing a six meter band plan will be announced the first week of January 1992 by WWARA.

Where does this leave the amateur community? Well, there is certainly a difference of opinion on six meter channelization. Neither the ARRL, SCRRA, SERA, MACC, WWARA - or anyone else - have the authority to declare any plan as the sole standard. FCC rules leave it up to the amateurs. Our guess is that the decision will probably be made by the marketplace who must build the radios. That is if any equipment manufacturers feel there is potentially enough 6 meter users out there to make their investment worth while. So far, like 900 MHz, they have not.

- Local and federal authorities have raided and shut down the *Pirate Radio Network* which operated in west Texas ...and seized its transmitting and production equipment.

Tom Barnes and Mark Chanez (both 27) of West Odessa were found operating low power (14 and 60 watt) FM transmitters from their trailer home bedroom s and closets. The range of their equipment fashioned from old surplus hardware and modified Radio Shack components was only a few miles.

Ex-disk jockey Richard Lane, 38 whose on-the-air name was "Bud Roach," later turned himself in to police. He and Chanez were released on \$35,000 unsecured bond. Tom and Wendy Barnes were initially jailed due to outstanding arrest warrants in Oregon. In 1986, Barnes was fined \$750 by the FCC for operating another unlicensed FM broadcast station on 90.1 MHz in Elgin, Oregon.

Charges were later dropped against Wendy Barnes, 23.

The trio used the call signs KROX and KFRE in the FM broadcast band at 95.1 and 107.7 MHz. KROX was the main station and programming was simultaneously broadcast (translated) on KFRE. Those call letters are assigned by the FCC to licensed AM stations in Minnesota and California. The FCC said the 107.7 MHz frequency was dangerously close to aviation control tower channels which begin at 108 MHz.

Their programming consisted primarily of heavy metal and hard rock music that didn't (or couldn't due to its offensiveness) make it onto other local FM stations. They took requests through an elaborate pager forwarding system. Word spread by word-of-mouth and the stations became very popular.

Another FM radio station to be called *Radio One* was scheduled to be located at Lane's downtown apartment on a frequency of 88.1 MHz. A low-power TV station was to be next. Although non-commercial, *The Pirate Radio Network* was in the process of exchanging night club advertising for beer.

Dallas-based FCC engineers who were tipped off to the unlicensed stations located them by using sophisticated direction finding equipment. A search warrant was authorized by U.S. Magistrate Robert Sykes.

No arrests were made at the time of the raid, but charges were later filed against the three involved. Operating a radio station without a license is punishable by up to one year imprisonment and fines of \$100,000 for each violation.

Last week, Richard Lane, Tom Barnes and Mark Chanez all pleaded guilty to operating unlicensed radio stations. They will be sentenced on December 31st (Mark Chanez) and January 6, 1992. (Richard Lane and Tom Barnes.)

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- Canada sure seems to have a lot of *special events amateur call signs!* VE3OSC will be operating from the *Ontario Science Center's* exhibition called "Siberia - Northern Discovery and Survival." The station will be contacting floating ice stations and others in northern Canada and Siberia.

To commemorate the 89th anniversary of *Marconi's first trans-Atlantic radio transmission* on December 15th, 1902, from VAS, Glace Bay Nova Scotia, to Cromwell, England, members of the Marconi Amateur Wireless Association of Sydney, Nova Scotia will operate amateur station VA1S from Glace Bay. (Thanks CRRL)

- Representatives of the *Canadian Radio Relay League* (CRRL) and *Canadian Amateur Radio Federation* (CARF) have decided on a new name when their two organizations merge into one: *Radio Amateurs of/du Canada (RAC)*

By the way, the number of amateur station licenses in Canada as of October 1, 1991, is 29,987 including 688 repeater licenses. This represents a growth of 11% during the past year which is attributed to the new simpler "Basic" entry qualifications.

- The Japan Amateur Radio League reports that some *60,000 amateurs visited their "Ham Fair '91"* ...far exceeding last year's figure. Three Albanian officials made the long journey to attend the hamfest. JARL said they donated most of the equipment necessary for the opening of amateur radio in Albania. *Marti Laine, OH2BH*, who was issued the first Albanian ham ticket was in attendance and made a presentation. 8J1HAM operated continuously from the convention.

New 7K1 to 7N4 prefix call signs have been authorized to the area around Tokyo due to a shortage of regular call sign prefixes.

(There are more than one million amateur radio stations in Japan.)

- The First Annual *Toys for Tots Ham Radio Rally* will take place December 1, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. just south of the famous Rose Bowl in Pasadena, California. Idea is to raise toys for under-privileged children in the Los Angeles area by Amateur Radio operators. There will also be ham radio mobile rig installation judging for neatness, inventiveness, and most number of rigs and antennas. Unwrapped toys with a value of at least \$5 will be collected by the U.S. Marines Reserves "Toys for Tots" program. For info contact Bruce Nolte, N6TFS at 213/257-5502.

- The petition of *Michael R. Reynolds, W0KIE* of Tulsa, Oklahoma, seeking secondary status for certain communications over Amateur Radio frequencies has been accepted by the FCC for comment. RM-7849 requests that the Amateur Service rules be amended to permit incidental music in communications originated by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and to expand the permissible NASA communications. Comments on RM-7849 close on November 28.

Reynolds also asked that a previous petition for reconsideration, filed April 23, 1991, be withdrawn. That petition requested reconsideration of the denial, on April 5, 1991, of his petition to retransmit NASA public communications and the Voice of America. The FCC granted Reynolds' request.

- *Sheryl Schuff, KB9EGH*, of Indianapolis, Indiana, says that *Cheickna S. Baber, N4ZXA*, is not the youngest Extra Class amateur in the U.S. as questioned by the October 1991 issue of Radio Fun "One who is younger than N4ZXA is my son, *Reuben Schuff*,

AA9BY, formerly KB9EGP. Reuben passed his 20 wpm code test on June 15, 1991, Element 4A (Advanced) on July 20, 1991, and Element 4B (Extra) on August 17, 1991 thereby qualifying for Extra Class while he was still 9 years old. His 10th birthday was September 9, 1991." Does anyone know of a younger Amateur Extra Class?

- The Dayton Amateur Radio Association is now accepting *applications for its annual \$1,500 scholarships*. Licensed amateurs graduating from high school in 1991 are eligible. For further information and application forms write: DARA Scholarships, 317 Ernst Avenue, Dayton, Ohio 45405

- *Interested in conducting periodic Amateur Radio license examinations?* The W5YI-VEC oversees more than 500 testing teams world-wide. Qualified Advanced and Extra Class amateurs wishing to become volunteer examiners should write (P.O. Box 565101, Dallas, Texas 75356) or call (toll-free) 1-800-669-W5YI for a VE application.

We offer two testing programs. **EXAM EXPRESS** is for Advanced or Extra Class VE's who wish to head up a team that will examine the Novice and Technician Class. We furnish (free of charge) testing software for IBM-compatible PC's which generates properly constructed Element 2 and 3A examinations - along with all other materials, forms and instructions.

Our **ADP (Automatic Distribution Program)** is for Extra Class VE's who wish to head up a team that will examine all classes - Novice through Amateur Extra. Again we furnish all testing materials including code test tapes, examination (both written and telegraphy) software, forms, and instructions. We have "paper" tests for VEs who do not have an IBM-compatible PC.

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AMSAT ANNUAL MEETING & SPACE SYMPOSIUM

This year's AMSAT-NA Ninth Annual Meeting and Space Symposium was held in Los Angeles, CA, the weekend of November 8 to 10. Over 200 were in attendance with satellite users traveling from all over the world. The meeting started with ARRL's **Rosalie White, WA1STO** presenting an "educators" workshop. Many other papers were offered on Friday, not the least of which was John Fall's video about his "trials and tribulations" of his CE0ZZZ DX-pedition.

On Saturday, **Doug Loughmiller, KO5I** kicked off the Symposium at 8:00 A.M. with some opening comments and then **Brooks Van Pelt, KB2CST** discussed the DSP-12 DSP modem, which he developed. **Bob McGwier, N4HY** reviewed the status of DO-17. Bob mentioned that he is now in a position to begin loading the speech software for DOVE and feels that he will be able to have DOVE "speaking" in a few weeks. All DOVE enthusiasts are urged to start listening for this to happen.

Bill Tynan, W3XO gave a run down on where the **Manned Space Program** is going and talked about past SAREX efforts. He said that STS-45 emphasis is expected to be on open 2-meter QSOs with the astronauts when it launches in March.

After a short break, AMSAT Engineering VP **Jan King, W3GEY** presented some fascinating results of his orbital studies for PHASE-3D satellite. Jan said some very exciting DX and operating possibilities could become available by adjusting some parameters.

Jan then presented a paper prepared by **Dick Jansson, WD4FAB** on "The Shape of Things to Come." This dealt with the currently planned configuration of the Phase-3D spacecraft. N4HY followed up Jan's presentation with a commentary about the huge resources required to build such a large spacecraft.

Ed Krome, KA9LNV, a noted microwave experimentalist then expounded on the simplicity and ease of S-band operation. Ed showed slides of a simple and easy to build S-band transverter and antennas he has built for use on AO-13.

Tom Clark, W3IWI covered the current status of AO-13's slowly decaying orbit. Based on recent work that he and a colleague have done, Tom is now predicting AO-13's demise late in 1996.

Harold Price, NK6K said that the PACSATs are experiencing heavy usage ...and that on weekends the PACSATs are practically saturated. With NTS and personal traffic being moved, the PACSATs are now performing to their full potential. Harold pointed out that hams are even sending digitized pictures of themselves and their stations on UO-14!

The rest of the afternoon and early evening was

concluded with talks by N5ITU about how easy it is for OSCAR users to add the capability of collecting weather satellite imagery to their stations. Jeff showed that if you are a current OSCAR satellite user, you have about 90% of the equipment needed to generate WX satellite pictures.

KO5I and **Keith Pugh, W5IU** presented a slide show about their efforts at the Fort Worth Museum of Science & Technology and the Soviet Space Exhibit. AMSAT has set up an OSCAR station right in the Museum Visitor Center which has enabled hundreds of school children hear the voices of the cosmonauts as they ask the cosmonauts about life aboard a space station.

Jeff Raetzke of Weber State University talked about the major "picture-taking" components of WO-18 and the other experiments aboard. Along with the review of WO-18 design and operation, several excellent pictures were shown from WO-18's CCD camera experiment. **Joe Kasser, W3/G3ZCZ** then gave a presentation about telemetry with the emphasis on future OSCARS using a standardized telemetry format. Joe also proposed a standard for archiving OSCAR telemetry for future studies.

And finally, **Marty Davidoff, K2UBC** author of the very popular "Satellite Experimenters Handbook" briefly covered an interplanetary probe that might fly inside PHASE-3D and then be released. It would then fly on to Mars!

The Ninth Annual AMSAT-NA Space Symposium concluded with a banquet and the recognition of many fine volunteers. For those who would like a copy of the proceedings of the Symposium, contact Martha at AMSAT-NA HQ's at (301) 589-6069.

At the AMSAT Board of Directors meeting held Sunday November 10, the following officers were elected for the coming year:

Chairman of the Board
President
Executive Vice President
Vice President Engineering
Vice President Operations

Doug Loughmiller KO5I
Bill Tynan W3XO
Ray Soifer W2RS
Jan King W3GEY
Keith Pugh W5IU

The office of Chairman of the Board was re-established to give Doug Loughmiller a position befitting his standing in the organization and one that which will convey this standing to outside organizations he will be contacting in his fund raising efforts.

Both Doug and the Board agreed that it would aid the fund raising efforts if he were freed from administrative duties. In addition to the Chairman of the Board position, he was given the title Executive Director. Bill Tynan W3XO agreed to serve as President.

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RAIN'S HAP HOLLY RESIGNS FROM IARN

On November 14th I received the following letter via MCI electronic mail from Radio Shack's *Ed Juge, W5TOO* who is Director of Market Planning for the Tandy/Radio Shack Corporation in Fort Worth, Texas. Ed followed up the electronic mail with a FAXed copy on Radio Shack letterhead to our office:

(QUOTE:) November 14, 1991

Editors
QST/CQ/Westlink/W5YI Report

Dear Friends:

Several months ago, I agreed to a lengthy phone interview about Radio Shack's new HTX-202 2-meter HT, with *Hap Holly, KC9RP*, for his "Radio Amateur Information Network (RAIN) Dial-up Information Service," a telephone dial-up news service. I also gave Hap permission to duplicate the material in his column in *Radio Scan* magazine. My (perhaps naive) impression was that the information was intended for anyone from club newsletter editors to commercial broadcast stations who might find it useful.

It came to my attention, a week or so ago, that K1MAN had broadcast the interview recently on 10 meters. This morning, I'm told, it was rebroadcast on 14.275 MHz.

Since my function at Radio Shack includes promoting our products through the editorial side of both broadcast and print media, much of the interview is simply "advertising," that has absolutely no place in any amateur band. I have always refused to discuss, over the ham bands, information of a questionable nature regarding any Radio Shack product.

I neither expected, participated in nor condoned transmitting this material on the ham bands. Had there been any hint that it might be used in this manner, there would have been no interview. I take the strongest possible exception to K1MAN's embarrassing use of this material, and have so-informed the FCC. Hap has been advised that any

future interviews, with any Tandy or Radio Shack employee, must clearly state that the material is copyrighted, and must not be broadcast on any amateur frequency.

/Signed/ Ed Juge, W5TOO

(END QUOTE)

A few days later, I received a FAX letter from *Hap Holly, KC9RP* - the blind amateur who heads up RAIN.

(QUOTE) PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release from RAIN: the *Radio Amateur Information Network*, *Hap Holly/KC9RP* producer.

Dear Friends,

The other morning I received a phone call from *Ed Juge/W5TOO* of the Tandy/Radio Shack Corp. He was very upset that my August interview with him re: the new Realistic HTX-202 handheld aired earlier this month by *Glenn Baxter/K1MAN* as part of his IARN (*International Amateur Radio Network*) Amateur Information Bulletin Service, which airs 6 times daily on 80, 20, and 10 meters.

At first I took strong exception to Mr. Juge's attitude. At the risk of sounding like a flag waver, the U.S. Constitution clearly states that no one person will create any law that limits a free press. I felt Mr. Juge was trying to do just that.

After giving it some thought, however, I realized he had a right to be irate. Mr. Juge gave me the interview for the purpose of transcribing it for the *RAIN FOCUS* column for the September issue of *Radio Scan* magazine. It was my fault that he did not fully understand that the interview would be heard over Amateur Radio. Radio Shack's expansion in to the handheld amateur market warranted some coverage in the amateur press.

But while products are reviewed informally on the ham bands, the inclusion of a product review by someone in Mr. Juge's position in an on-the-air bulletin service would be perceived by many as crass commercialism. As I am learning, perceptions are everything. In my zeal to provide the amateur community with the particulars about the HTX-202 handheld, I inadvertently put Mr. Juge in

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a difficult position. I am indeed sorry for having done so.

To reiterate, Mr. Juge took a great exception to his interview being aired on the IARN bulletin service. Thinking about it now, I can see why. So to avoid any confusion in the future, I do not want ANY of my RAIN programming to air on the IARN after 1800 UTC, November 23, 1991.

Unfortunately, I have no way of stopping **Glenn Baxter/K1MAN** from airing RAIN interviews and commentaries. Like *NewsLine* and *EastLink*, the RAIN Dialup Service (708/299-INFO) is on an automatic telephone answering machine. Anyone can call and record it. I have no way to control where my programming is aired and by whom, any more than the ARRL can control who records and airs W1AW bulletins.

It is no secret that for the past 5 years, I have openly supported the work of Glenn Baxter and the IARN. Conceptually the IARN is a great idea, as it has saved lives. I still view it as a viable alternative to traditional ham radio bureaucracy. It exists to assist the peoples of other nations in times of disaster.

It also is no secret that the IARN is an organization openly hated by most of the world's ham radio societies, because it bypasses them and deals directly with their officials. Their jealousy is understandable as nobody likes his territorial sovereignty encroached upon by outsiders, regardless of their skills and logistical support.

Though the IARN has accomplished much since its inception in 1985, it has one major flaw: the organization exists at the whim and will of one man ... **Glenn Baxter/K1MAN**. His organization appears to be a one-man show minus internal checks and balances. As a former board member, I should know.

I feel the outstanding work of the IARN is being seriously compromised by Glenn's ongoing feuds with the FCC and others. All organizations are judged by the quality of their leadership -- it's a fact of life. Due to what looks to be poor judgement in recent months regarding programming

Glenn has produced, the IARN has lost much of the public support it once enjoyed.

Last Spring, I finally realized what was happening to the IARN, and began quietly backing away from it. Though Glenn publicizes the IARN as being an international organization with "world headquarters" in Belgrade Lakes, Maine, it appears from all practical purposes to be a one-man operation, albeit with some outside help and laudable intentions.

I now find myself in the same position as have others who have tried to lend their support to IARN. I will continue to support the concept of the IARN, but for now I cannot support the person who runs it. I hereby resign from the IARN as a member, board member, and supplier of audio programming. As I do not have the finances to copyright or legally protect my material, I can only hope that Glenn will abide by my wishes and cease airing my RAIN programming as of 1800 UTC, November 23, 1991.

I suspect next week, or 2 weeks from now, Glenn will spend five or 10 minutes lambasting me for defecting. So be it ... I made a mistake of supporting Glenn in the first place; now I'm paying the price. What Glenn will never know is my having to write this hurts more than anything he might say about me on the air.

Sincerely,
(708/518-6551)

/Signed/ Hap Holly/KC9RP
(END QUOTE)

I decided to call **Glenn Baxter/K1MAN** to get his side of the story. Baxter contends that it was **Hap Holly/KC9RP** that insisted the interview air over IARN. "I was not going to run it without even hearing it. ... He wanted me to run it because 'if you don't run it soon it won't be timely.' He nagged me [to run it]. This went on for a week or two. ... I finally listened to it and I thought it was a terrific piece. It was very informational, I don't consider it advertising at all. Ed Juge is very articulate ... and it does not come across as commercial.

"I asked Hap what happens if I get a *Notice of Apparent Liability*. Do you realize that if the FCC

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issues me a fine ...my defense would be far, far, far weaker ...than with the other Notices of Apparent Liability [I have received.] I accused him of hiding behind his telephone service like Pasternak does. I address [Hap Holly's resignation] in my editorial comments this week." Baxter played his comments to me over the phone:

"Regarding Hap Holly's resignation from IARN, I would suggest that the real problem is with totally improper and grossly illegal treatment of IARN by the FCC over the last year. The heat and peer pressure on Hap Holly/KC9RP as a result of this all-american tug-of-war has been torturing him beyond his limit to rationally deal with it. I wasn't going to run the Radio Shack piece in the first place. But Hap kept nagging me to do so and after hearing the Ed Juge interview about Radio Shack's new two-meter handheld, I finally agreed that it was perfectly OK for the IARN Information Bulletin Service. And it ran ...just as Hap requested..."

"Hap's request for me to stop using his free programming available to the public... is irrational, arbitrary and a breach of my justifiable reliance on it. You can't copyright something against just one person. That's discrimination and discrimination is against the law in the United States..." Baxter went on to tell how RAIN got started and that he had financially supported it.

"IARN is alive and well, with over 4,000 members worldwide and strong autonomous directors in every major region of the globe - far from a one man show as Hap alleges," Baxter said. "If IARN was as rinky-dink as KC9RP says, why is ARRL so worried? And why is the FCC paying so much attention? Because IARN is on the cutting-edge of amateur radio as we plunge into the next century. That's why ...amateur radio growing pains. Hap Holly, KC9RP, your material is terrific. I will fight to the last whistle to see that it is shared with hams all over the world...."

Baxter also was very critical of this newsletter for our not reporting on what he calls "...*the FCC scandal*." He believes that I (W5YI) "...am scared to death" of the Commission "...because of with a stroke of a pen they could put you out of

business. You have hurt your credibility because you have not reported the story." I asked Baxter to give me a quick summary of what it was that I supposedly refused to publish and he said...

"The FCC, for various political reasons, has decided after first agreeing to the IARN bulletin service ...has decided to shut it down ...through bogus *Notices of Apparent Liability* ...five forfeitures which have no legal standing. ...In one case there was mail tampering involved with one of my responses. I took it all the way up to the full Commission and decided to file with Commissioner Duggan's office. When it got to his office, it was intentionally 'deep sixed.' The certified mail was intentionally tampered with ...and we have an on-going postal investigation. We have absolute proof that the FCC has tampered with certified mail ...because they do not want this to go to the full commission. ...They have no legal grounds to stand on. I am going to beat them hands down on the forfeiture thing. They don't want it to go into the courts because this is going to set amateur radio policy with regards to information bulletins. It will set a precedent ...that goes against current FCC policy..."

After hanging up with Glenn Baxter, I called *Hap Holly/KC9RP* to ask him some questions.

W5YI - Did you send the Radio Shack interview to Baxter for airing on amateur radio, or did he pick it off of your telephone dial up service?

KC9RP - I sent it to him on tape for him to make a decision regarding using on his bulletin service.

W5YI - K1MAN said you "nagged" him to air the Radio Shack interview. Did you?

KC9RP - No, but I did tell him that if he was going to use it he should use it soon otherwise it would be old news. I said I would have no problem myself with airing the interview. It was done in August. I did not send it to him right away. Actually I made a mistake in making it available to IARN. It would not have caused a problem if it had only been aired on local repeater nets. Ed Juge should have known what the dial-up service was about ...that it was for amateur radio net use.

W5YI - Was the Radio Shack interview broadcast over amateur radio nets in your (Chicago) area.

KC9RP - Yes it was, but I did not do it. Others picked it up off of the RAIN dial-up service.